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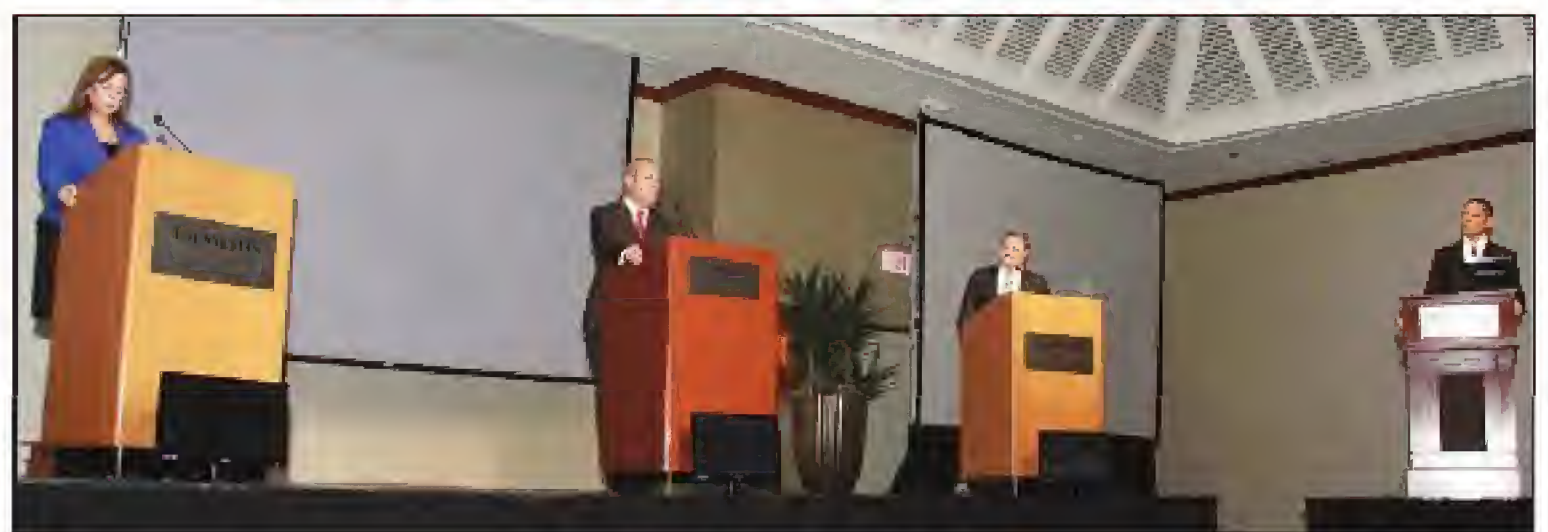
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## Election trail Aruba 2013: The Great Debate



The candidates and moderator

Aruba moves steadily towards Election Day 2013 on Friday, September 27, as a break from political rallies and motorcades, Aruba's two prominent entities representing the busi-

ness community, the Chamber of Commerce (KvK) and the Aruba Trade and Industry Association (ATIA) organized a formal debate between those considered the three top candidates.

There are six parties which have submitted their lists of candidates for Aruba's 21-seat parliament, but the three "major" candidates, heading the largest parties, which comprise the existing parliament, were those participating in the debate.

Weighing in on primarily economic queries were Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman, head of the Arubaanse Volks Partij or AVP, Evelyn Croes, head of the Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo, or MEP, and Andin Bikker, leader of the Partido Democracia Real, or PDR. Their parties now hold all the seats in Aruba's parliament; AVP has 12 and the ma-

iority, MEP holds eight and PDR has one.

The two-hour debate took place in the ballroom of the Westin Aruba Resort in Palm Beach and was very well attended, primarily by Aruba's business community. The debate was simultaneously broadcast by the island's three TV networks and several radio stations. Ruben Trappenberg, news anchor for Channel 13, TeleAruba, was the moderator.

Questions addressed four economic topics of concern at the present time: General Economy, Social Security (AOV), the National Health Insurance (AZV) and Public Finances. Though each party had their fervent supporters, comments and catcalls from the audience were minimal, as it was requested that such behavior be controlled.

## Fitch Revises Aruba's Outlook to Negative; Affirms Ratings at 'BBB'

NEW YORK — Fitch Ratings has revised the Outlook on Aruba's ratings to Negative from Stable. Fitch affirmed the long-term foreign and local currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at 'BBB'. The short-term IDR has been affirmed at 'F3'. The Country Ceiling has been affirmed at 'A-'. The revision of the Outlook to Negative from Stable reflects Aruba's continued growth underperformance, large fiscal imbalances, rising

government debt and increased economic vulnerability after the halt of fuel exports by the Valero refinery. Moreover, there is uncertainty related to the scope and pace of the fiscal consolidation process, especially given high budgetary rigidities and moderate economic growth prospects.

### KEY RATING DRIVERS

Aruba's real GDP shrank by a cumulative 12% between 2008 and 2012 following the global financial crisis and the

recurrent suspension of operations at the Valero refinery. The economy contracted by a five-year average of 2.4% in 2012 compared to a 2.9% expansion of the 'BBB' median. Economic activity could resume at an average of 2.6% in 2013-2015.

The present administration has undertaken measures to support economic activity through public investment, energy efficiency and diversification initiatives.

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## ANTM Lisa D'amato returns to Aruba for a vacation getaway



America's Next Top Model All Star winner Lisa D'Amato returns to Aruba for some R&R time with husband Adam. The couple fell in love with the island during D'Amato's appearance at the launch party of Aruba Marriott's H2Oasis adults only pool in March 2012.

They are expecting their first child this fall and took the opportunity to take a short vacation away from their busy lives in L.A. While vacationing in Aruba, they were

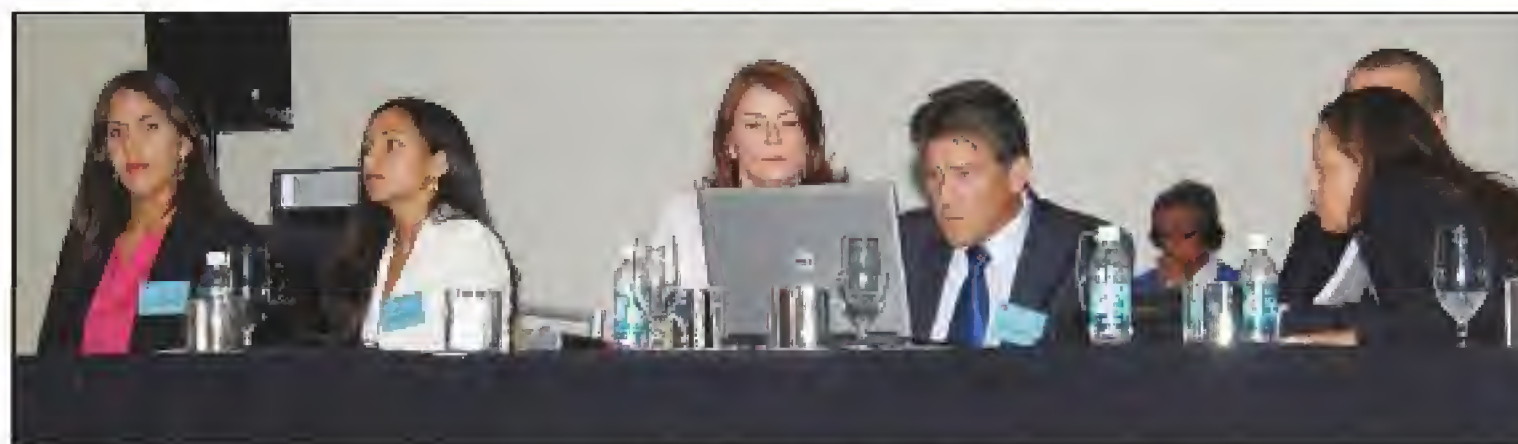
welcomed back to the Aruba Marriott Resort to spend time at the H2Oasis pool and the beach. They eventually hope to find their home in Aruba and raise their kids on the happy island.

"I told you that I would come back to Aruba for many more years," says D'Amato smiling.

The Aruba Marriott Resort wishes Lisa and Adam the best of luck with the last months of the pregnancy.

## Election trail Aruba 2013: The Great Debate

Continued from page 1



ATIA KvK panel



A packed house

Despite the generally acceptable decorum, the moderator had occasion once or twice, to ask the audience to control their outbursts.

Overall, the impression by most impartial observers was that the leading party candidates, AVP and MEP, offered little in concrete outlines of their planned actions, but substantial quantities of political rhetoric in response to most questions. PDR Candidate Andin Bikker was praised for his pragmatic and direct responses.

A recently issued International Monetary Fund, (IMF) report on Aruba's public finances was the basis for the queries regarding public spending and resolution of a rapidly growing deficit. As was expected, no candidate wished to admit to slashing an-

nual expenses by reducing the civil workers payroll or raising taxes, as suggest by the report. All agreed that raising the age at which pensioners would

begin to collect social security was a viable reform they were seriously considering.

Continued on page 3

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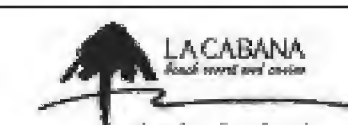
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## Election trail Aruba 2013: The Great Debate

Continued from page 2

### Finanza Publico

- Debe Publico (bonds): Afl. 3062 miyon (fin 2012)
- Pago pendiente APFA: Afl. 650 miyon (pago den 15 año)
- Proyecto PPP: aprox. Afl. 1000 miyon capital priva (pago den 20 – 30 año pa gobierno)
- Gasto relaciona cu personal: 2012: Afl. 684.7 miyon  
2009: Afl. 579.2: +18.2%

Gasto total di aparato gob. vs Entrada Total 2012: 91.1%  
2009: 70.7%

Gasto total di aparato gob. vs Entrada Total Belasting 2012: 101%  
2009: 84.5%

Annual public expense increase since 2009.

### Indicadornan Economico

Sector Real	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Poblacion (x1000)	101.3	102.1	102	102.6	104.2
GDP Nominal (x1 miyon)	4914	4473	4279	4566	4555
GDP Real (x 1 miyon)	3620	3217	3095	3211	3171
GDP Real per capita (x Afl. 1000)	35.7	31.5	30.3	31.3	30.4
Desempleo (%)	6.9	10.3	10.6	8.9	9.6
Inflacion pa consumidor (Average (%))	9	-2.1	2.1	4.4	0.6

Facts and figures overview

### Indicadornan Economico (cont.)

Indicadornan pa 2013:

- Crecimiento GDP real 2013: 2.6% (CBA) (2.3% IMF)
- Crecimiento GDP nominal 2013: 0.5 - 1%

Entrada Belasting Jan – Mei 2013 (vs Jan – Mei 2012):

- Entrada Total Belasting: +7.8%;
- Loonbelasting -1.2%;
- BBO -0.05%;
- Winstbelasting +33.4%

Finanza Publico	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Entrada total	1365.1	1108.9	1183.9	978.4	1017.4
Entrada total di belasting	977	928.9	1070.3	856.9	915.3
Gasto total	1290.5	1229.1	1337.1	1282.5	1435.4
Gasto di aparato di gobierno*	796	784.4	823.7	843.4	927.2
Deficit financiero (-)	51.4	-163.1	-188.6	-325.2	-442.1
Debe di gobierno riba prestamo	2049.8	2226.2	2394.4	2793.4	3062.6
Ratio debe di gobierno vs GDP (%)	41.7	49.8	56	61.2	67.2

\*salario, contribucion pamanan, subsidio di salario, bienes y servicio

### Seguridad Social

1960: AOV: "Pay as you go system" - edad pension 65 año  
1975: Limite di edad baha na 62  
1990: Edad di pension a baha pa 60 año  
2005: Deficit Structural AOV (entrada < pago di pension)  
Fin di 2013/inicio 2014: Fondo di reserva agota  
2014: Deficit di aprox. Afl. 50 - 60 miyon  
2020: Deficit ? Creciendo, si no tin cambio den maneho

Pension obligatorio (PO)  
Jan 2011: Introduccion pension obligatorio sector priva  
Jan 2014: prima ta yega 6% (3+3)  
Jan 2014: peso total di prima Jan 2014: AOV; ZV/OV; PO; AZV: 34%  
(sin conta posible aumento di prima AOV/AZV)

Social security figures.

#### Public finance and deficit

All agreed that raising the age at which pensioners would begin to collect social security was a viable reform they were seriously considering. They also all agreed that reopening the refinery in San Nicolas would boost the economy, though none offered a definitive solution as to how that

would come about.

A full, in-depth analysis of the debate by internationally recognized island Economist Dr. Ryan Peterson, who has graciously agreed to provide us with his insights, will be printed in Monday's edition of THE MORNING NEWS.

Rosalie Klein



## Three new vehicles for CEA



This week, the focus is on the Special Aruban Force (CEA), which is a division of the Ministry of Justice and exercises various major functions which contribute to the safety of each citizen on the island.

On Tuesday the Minister, who was instrumental in instituting a K9 Unit on Aruba four years ago, presented the first certification to the first K9 duo of CEA. Dog handler Silvio Varis and his canine partner Beer are specialized in detecting drugs.

On Wednesday there was another special occasion for CEA when the Minister received representatives of GTI, Parts Manager Mijanou Koolman, who presented three automobiles to them. The automobiles are three Volkswagen CrossFox. These autos will be leased from GTI for the CEA.

CEA is the link in the chain of service of the justice departments with their different areas of responsibility and tasks. They provide assistance in calamities and in the process of combating crimes. They ensure the safety of government buildings and persons working in or visiting these buildings.

The Minister had words of praise for the work being done by this special justice unit, CEA. He was pleased that they are accomplishing an important role in the overall safety of our island and people.

The three new vehicles will be used, among others, for night vigilance as they control all posts and other duties.



### Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday  
12:00 - 3 p.m.

### Dinner

Monday - Sunday  
6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

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## Aruba Veterinary Service seizes illegal conch



ORANJESTAD -- On 15 August, following a tip, the Veterinary Service, seized illegally fished conch (Queen Conch) at a supermarket. Not only is the fisherman but also the supermarket that sells the conch prosecutable.

The Veterinary Services officials are responsible for monitoring that islanders comply with the Conservation Regulation. The Conservation Regulation protects plants and animals that are endangered species of which Conch is one of them.

A few decades ago there was conch in abundance in the Aruba waters: wherever you

go into the sea, there were Conch for the taking. But now in 2013, that is no longer the case.

Both the shell and the flesh of conch are in high demand and this has led to a considerable decrease in the number of conch in the Aruba's water.

Other known species in and around Aruba that are protected are: sea turtles (all types), the iguana, the parakeet and the rattlesnake (cascabel).

The Conservation Regulation has penalty clauses which in extreme cases can amount to a fine of Afl. 100.000, - and two years in prison.

## Janie Brokke Memorial ready for kick off

ORANJESTAD -- The Fundacion Movimiento ta Bida has announced that the Annual 60+ Tournament, dubbed "Janie Brokke Memorial," is ready for their kick off. This year there will be a total of 8 sports events with Cede Aruba as the main sponsor. Everyone 60 years and older can participate in the tournament without being professional. You only need a good spirit and healthy condition. The idea is to bring many old time friends together for a fun time of fellowship.

Billiard will begin on Sunday, September 1st at Tumazu in the La Sallestraat from 2:00 in the afternoon.

They will play again on Wednesday the 3rd at 7:30 p.m. and the final on Sunday the 8th of September at 2:00 in the afternoon.

This year in Tennis, they will play the men's double and

mixed double for the first time. All games will be played at the Eagle Tennis Club. The games are scheduled from the 10th of September to the 13th beginning at 7:00 in the evening.

Domino will be at the Centro di Bario Noord on the 6th and 8th of September from 7:30pm. on

Athletics will start on Sunday the 8th at the Linear Park. Various categories will be played: 60-64 years,

65-69 years, 70-74 years and 75 years and older. Thrill Walkers are in charge of this event, beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Other games to be played are Softball, Volleyball and Bowling.

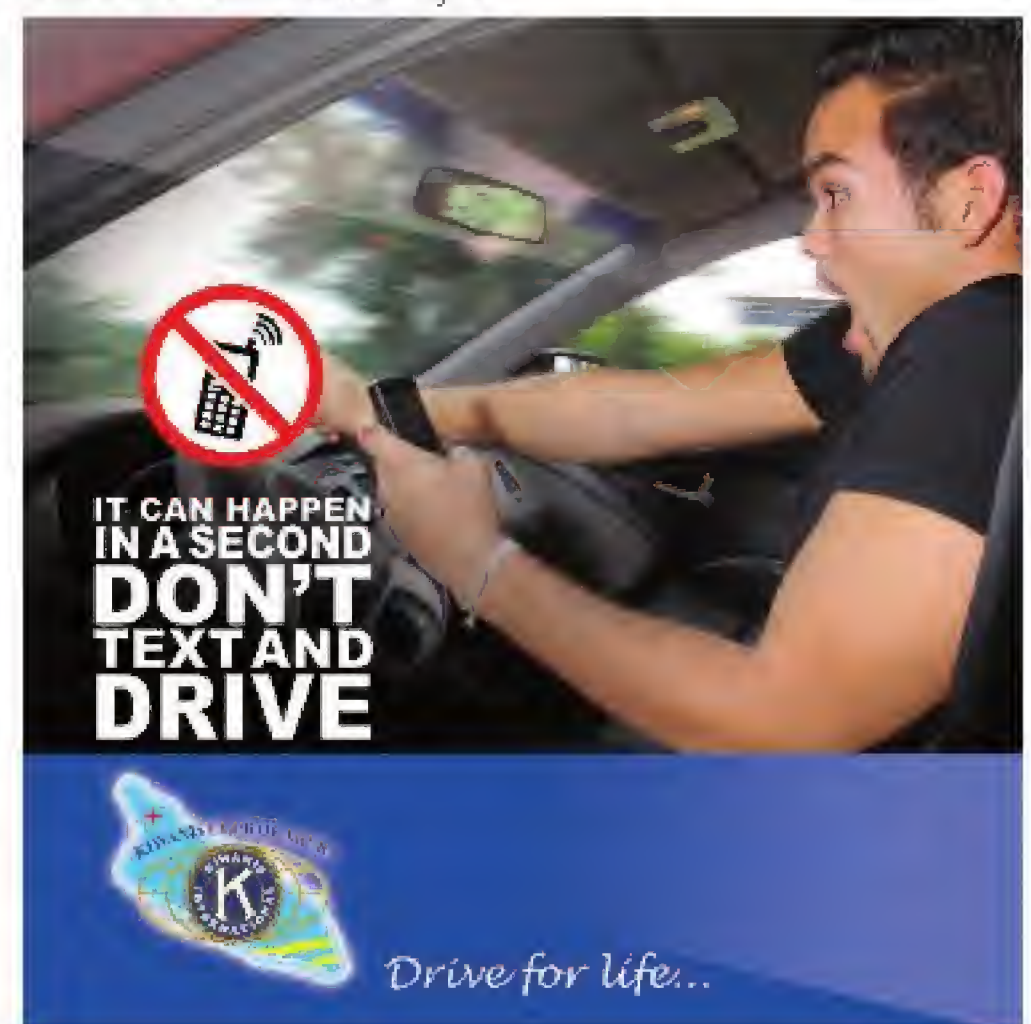
Softball is on Sunday, September 8, with 4 teams. The games will be played at the Sabana Grandi Ballpark from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Volleyball is on Saturday,

September 7 at the Sport hall in Santa Cruz, game starts at 7:00 p.m.

Bowling is the game that has grown the most over the years among then 60+. Edna Maduro is the big motor behind this game. The Bowling games will take place at the Eagle Bowling beginning Friday the 6th of September and will continue on September 7 & 13. All games will begin at 6:00 in the afternoon.

Presentation of winning prizes will be Saturday 14th at Club POVA from 3:00 to 1:00 under the musical sounds of J Formation. The Foundation is grateful for the help of all who have contributed to organizing this year's events for our elderly and kindly asks everyone to come and support our senior citizens and so stimulate them to continue practicing sports.





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## Minister of Education declares Colegio Arubano and Mon Plaisir closed until further notice



On Thursday afternoon after receiving the results of test samples taken at the Colegio Arubano school complex regarding the possibility of asbestos particles in the air, the Minister of Education, Arthur

Dowers, decided to close the Colegio Arubano and the Mon Plaisir College until further notice.

This decision was taken after test samples revealed that both schools in the area are ex-

posed to the risk and that three to four classes outside of the area had indications of the presence of asbestos particles.

The Minister expressed his regret for whatever inconvenience caused, but that the security and health of everyone was a primary concern. He indicated that it is imperative that the schools be thoroughly cleaned before teachers or students can have access to the area.

After the cleanup of the two schools, they will take new test samples, and if this returns negative for asbestos, the schools may be reopened. Mon Plaisir may possibly be reopened a few days before Colegio Arubano.

The Minister reported that they have contacted an expert



company that did this work for them once before. If the cleanup work goes fast Mon Plaisir may be ready for reopening on Monday, providing of course the test results prove that the area is perfectly clean and safe.

The Minister visited the Mon Plaisir Kindergarten and

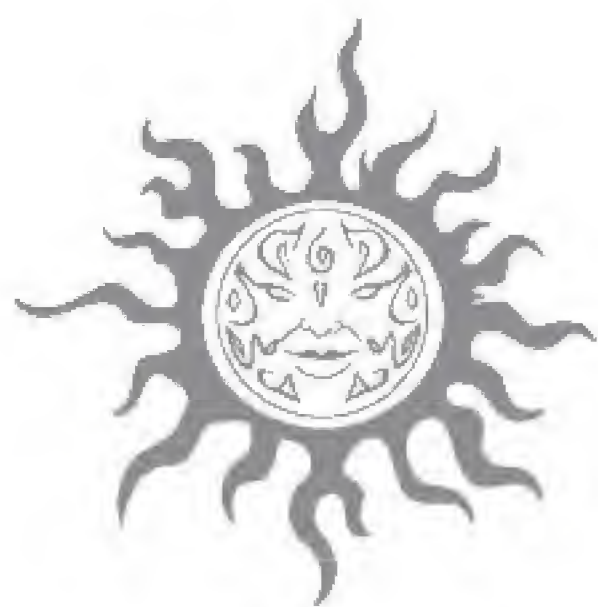
Primary schools to inspect the work of removing asbestos sheets from the roofs of these schools. The asbestos sheets are rolled into protective material to prevent any dust from coming loose into the air. The sheets will be placed into containers and later be transported to the dump.

## Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts Aruba makes Caribbean's Green List 2013

**GREEN** can mean many different things. It can mean energy efficient, or it can mean entirely reliant on green fuels. It can mean environmentally friendly, but it can also mean community-friendly. When it comes to tourism, green means everything from using local produce to emphasizing local culture. So while things like Green Globe certification are great, the ways hotels interact with their communities are also important. A list of the 10 greenest hotels and resorts in the Caribbean for 2013 — the properties that understand the combination of factors that makes a property green has been put together. One of the Caribbean's pioneering green resorts is the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort Aruba, where sustainability is present at every level of the property. And it's green down to the details: recycled linens, reused key cards, solar water tanks, TVs on timers — the list goes on and on. The property even sponsors the Donkey Sanctuary Aruba.







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## Colombian rebels call pause in peace talks

HAVANA (AFP) - Colombia's FARC guerrilla group said yesterday it was putting peace talks on pause to examine a government proposal that any peace agreement must be submitted to a national referendum.

President Juan Manuel Santos said in Bogota that the FARC's decision to take time out to study the referendum proposal was "legitimate and valid."

"But time is passing and there are limits to the patience of the Colombian people and we have to continue moving forward," he warned.

On Thursday, Santos had submitted legislation to Congress that would require a referendum on any peace agreement reached with the leftist rebels.

"In light of this new cir-

cumstance, the FARC's peace delegation has decided to make a pause in the talks to center itself exclusively on the implications of the government proposal," FARC negotiator Pablo Catatumbo said, reading from a statement.

The government and rebels have been holding peace talks in the Cuban capital Havana since November, with the aim of ending Latin America's longest insurgency.

Santos said that in the event of a peace deal, Colombians should vote on it when the country goes to either legislative elections or presidential elections.

Legislative elections are due in March 2014, and the presidential poll is set for May next year.

Catatumbo did not say how long the pause in the talks

would last.

He noted that the rebels had previously proposed that a peace agreement be ratified by a national constituent assembly to ensure it had popular assent.

But Santos has in the past rejected that approach, and yesterday insisted that a referendum would be a better way to poll the public.

Although both sides have expressed optimism that an agreement can be reached, negotiators so far have dealt only with two of the five topics on the agenda for the talks.

They reached a consensus on issue of rural development, and have been discussing the FARC's political reintegration.

Yet to be discussed are the laying down of arms, drug trafficking and reparations for the victims of the conflict.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Car bombs at Lebanon mosques kill 42, wound hundreds

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Powerful car bombs exploded yesterday outside two Sunni mosques in a Lebanese city riven by strife over the war in neighbouring Syria, killing 42 people and wounding hundreds, an official said. That was the highest toll in an attack since Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

Coming a week after a bombing in the Beirut bastion of Shiite party Hezbollah, a close ally of Bashar al-Assad, the bombings in the northern port of Tripoli risk further stoking tensions between supporters and foes of the Syrian president.

Earlier, the Lebanese Red Cross said there were also at least 500 wounded, with director Georges Kettaneh adding that many of those hurt had serious burns and head wounds.

Both blasts hit at the hour of weekly Muslim prayers, in a city where Sunni supporters of Syria's rebels engage in frequent, often deadly, clashes with Alawites, who back the Assad regime.

The first bomb struck in the city centre at the Al-Salam mosque as worshippers were still inside.

Local television showed images from a CCTV camera of people sitting on the floor listening to a talk as cars drove past outside, when the explosion hit and the worshippers scattered in panic.

The second explosion struck outside Al-Taqwa mosque, about two kilometres (a little more than a mile) away, near the port.

An AFP reporter saw a number of charred bodies near Al-Taqwa and the bodies of five children brought out of it.

As huge clouds of black smoke billowed into the air, television channels aired footage of the dead, of buildings with their fronts blown in and vehicles ablaze.

People rushed to help the wounded, as others hysterically sought their loved ones.

Hundreds of furious people gathered outside the Al-Taqwa mosque shouting curses at Hezbollah and the Syrian regime.

The powerful Shiite movement, whose militia have been fighting for months alongside Assad's troops, linked the Tripoli attacks to the one in Beirut on August 15, which killed 22 people and injured more than 300.

It said they were part of a plan to "plunge Lebanon into chaos and destruction".

Former premier Saad Hariri, a Sunni and Hezbollah opponent, said the "authors of dissension do not want Lebanon to live in peace for one minute; they want the killing machine to mow down the lives of innocents across Lebanon".

In Damascus, Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zohbi condemned this "cowardly terrorist attack on our brothers in Tripoli."

In London, Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt condemned what he called the "abhorrent attacks" and urged unity.

## The Costa Concordia cruise ship to be raised up in Sept.



**GIGLIO ISLAND** : Salvage workers prepare the Costa Concordia cruise ship on August 23, 2013 at Goglio Island. The Costa Concordia cruise ship will be raised up in September near the Italian island where it still lies keeled over after a disaster on January 13, 2012 with 4,229 people from 70 countries on board in a disaster that claimed 32 lives. (AFP PHOTO)



## International News

### Flood of Syria refugees to Iraq tops 40,000

GENEVA (AFP) - More than 40,000 Syrians have fled to Iraqi Kurdistan in little over a week to escape an escalation in fighting between Kurdish rebels and Islamists, the United Nations said Friday.

On August 15, Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region opened a crossing on its Tigris River border with Syria, which previously had been controlled tightly amid fears of a spillover of conflict.

Consequently, there was a massive influx of refugees, most of them Syrian Kurds.

With temperatures hitting 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit), aid agencies have been scrambling to bring supplies to those fleeing and have helped move them to communities away from the border zone.

The biggest influx was last weekend, and aid agencies said that Iraqi Kurdistan had initially imposed a daily limit of 3,000, but it was not if this remained in place.

Around two million Syrians have fled their homeland since the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad erupted in 2011.

Most have found a haven in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, while UN figures put the number in Iraq at least 197,000, including the latest influx.

Syria's long-marginalised Kurdish minority had tried to avoid antagonising forces loyal to Assad or rebels fighting to overthrow him.

But there has been fierce fighting in recent weeks between Syrian Kurdish forces and the Islamist Al-Nusra Front, which is also fighting Assad.

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## US scientists claim world's most accurate clock

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US scientists said Thursday they have built the world's most precise clock, whose ticking rate varies less than two parts in one quintillion, or 10 times better than any other.

The clock, made from the element ytterbium, could be used for technological advancements beyond timekeeping, such as

navigation systems, magnetic fields and temperature.

"The stability of the ytterbium lattice clocks opens the door to a number of exciting practical applications of high-performance timekeeping," National Institute of Standards and Technology physicist Andrew Ludlow said in a statement.

While mechanical clocks use

the movement of a pendulum to keep time, atomic clocks use an electromagnetic signal of light emitted at an exact frequency to move electrons in cesium atoms.

The physicists built their ytterbium clocks using about 10,000 rare-earth atoms cooled to 10 microkelvin (10 millionths of a degree above ab-

solute zero) and trapped in an optical lattice made of laser light.

Another laser that "ticks" 518 trillion times per second triggers a transition between two energy levels in the atoms. The clock's high stability is owed to the large number of atoms.

The new clocks can achieve

precise results very quickly.

Technicians must average the current US civilian time standard, the NIST-F1 cesium fountain clock, for about 400,000 seconds (about five days) to obtain its best performance.

But the new ytterbium clocks can achieve that same result in about one second of averaging time.





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## Health & Living

### Copper link to Alzheimer's? New research fuels debate



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Scientists reported new evidence that copper can lead to the plaque buildup in the brain that causes Alzheimer's disease, fueling fresh debate over the mineral's role in dementia.

The scientific community is divided on the question of whether copper -- found in red meat, vegetables, dairy products as well as pipes that carry drinking water in much of the developed world -- causes or prevents Alzheimer's disease.

For the latest study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers looked at how copper in the capillaries may cause a breakdown in the blood-brain barrier, leading to a buildup of the protein amyloid beta, or plaques that are a hallmark of Alzheimer's.

The copper caused oxidation which interfered with another protein, called lipoprotein receptor-related protein 1 (LRP1), that would normally clear amyloid beta from the brain, his study said.

Not only did copper appear to prevent the clearance of plaque that is believed to be a prime culprit in Alzheimer's, it also stimulated neurons to produce more amyloid beta.

Researchers described their findings in a press release as a "one-two punch" that "provides strong evidence that copper is a key player in Alzheimer's disease."

However, other experts who have studied copper and Alzheimer's questioned the paper's findings.

Exley and colleagues recently published their latest paper on the topic in the British journal Nature in February.

Another outside researcher, George Brewer, emeritus professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan medical school, said the "authors miss an important point about copper toxicity to the brain."

## Insecticide-treated bed nets prevent tropical disease

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Bed nets treated with insecticide are a simple and economical way to eradicate filariasis, a mosquito-borne tropical disease that threatens 1.4 billion people worldwide, according to research published Wednesday.

The researchers, whose study appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine, found that the nets could re-

duce the debilitating disease's transmission to undetectable levels.

Lymphatic filariasis, also known as elephantiasis, is caused by a parasitic worm. More than 120 million people suffer from the disease, which has disfigured or disabled about one-third of its victims.

The study "highlights the importance of integrating this type of intervention as a part of

the global strategy to eliminate lymphatic filariasis," said James Kazura of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

In 2002, Kazura published a study on drugs used to combat filariasis in five villages in Papua New Guinea over the course of five years.

The drugs were effective at eliminating the parasite from humans but did not stop its

transmission by mosquitoes.

Ten years after the villagers took their last medication, they received free bed nets in a government initiative to fight malaria.

In areas with mosquito problems, bed nets treated with insecticide are commonly used.

Bed nets prevent female mosquitoes from obtaining the blood they need to reproduce.



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## Sci-Tech

### California emergency as huge Yosemite fire rages



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A huge wildfire raged unchecked near California's famous Yosemite National Park on Friday, threatening thousands of homes as officials declared a state of emergency.

The blaze -- named the "Rim Fire" -- erupted on Saturday in the Stanislaus National Forest to the west of Yosemite, one of the most popular tourist attractions in California.

By early Friday the inferno had destroyed more than 42,000 hectares (103,000 acres) while more than 2,000 firefighters were tackling the flames.

The blaze was classified as only two percent contained and was threatening some 4,500

homes, according to the official fire information website Inciweb.

California Governor Jerry Brown on Thursday declared a state of emergency, meaning extra resources can now be mobilized in order to battle the fire.

One of the main routes into Yosemite, the 120 highway, has been closed, according to Inciweb, but other roads into the park remain open.

The blaze is one of several large fires currently raging in the western United States. In Idaho, the "Beaver Creek" fire near the ski resort of Sun Valley has destroyed some 45,000 hectares and was 67 percent contained on Friday.

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### Albania seizes over a ton of cannabis bound for Italy

TIRANA (AFP) - Albanian police have seized more than a ton of cannabis destined for Italy and arrested a suspected smuggler, a spokeswoman said Friday.

The drugs, packed in plastic bags, were seized overnight during a joint Albanian-Italian

police operation, spokeswoman Laura Totraku told reporters.

Albania is the leading supplier of cannabis in Europe and a major transit zone for drugs.

Last year, police seized more than 10 tonnes of cannabis destined for Euro-

pean markets, notably Greece and Italy.

Lazarat, 240 kilometres (145 miles) south of the capital Tirana, is believed to be the Balkan country's largest producer of the drug with an estimated annual production of some 900 tonnes worth around 4.5 billion euros (\$5.9 billion).

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## ACROSS

1. Neighbor of Mich.
5. Cad
9. Wilt
12. Garfield's friend
13. Christmas season
14. Korean auto company
15. Merlin's pointer
16. Impractical people
18. Good card in

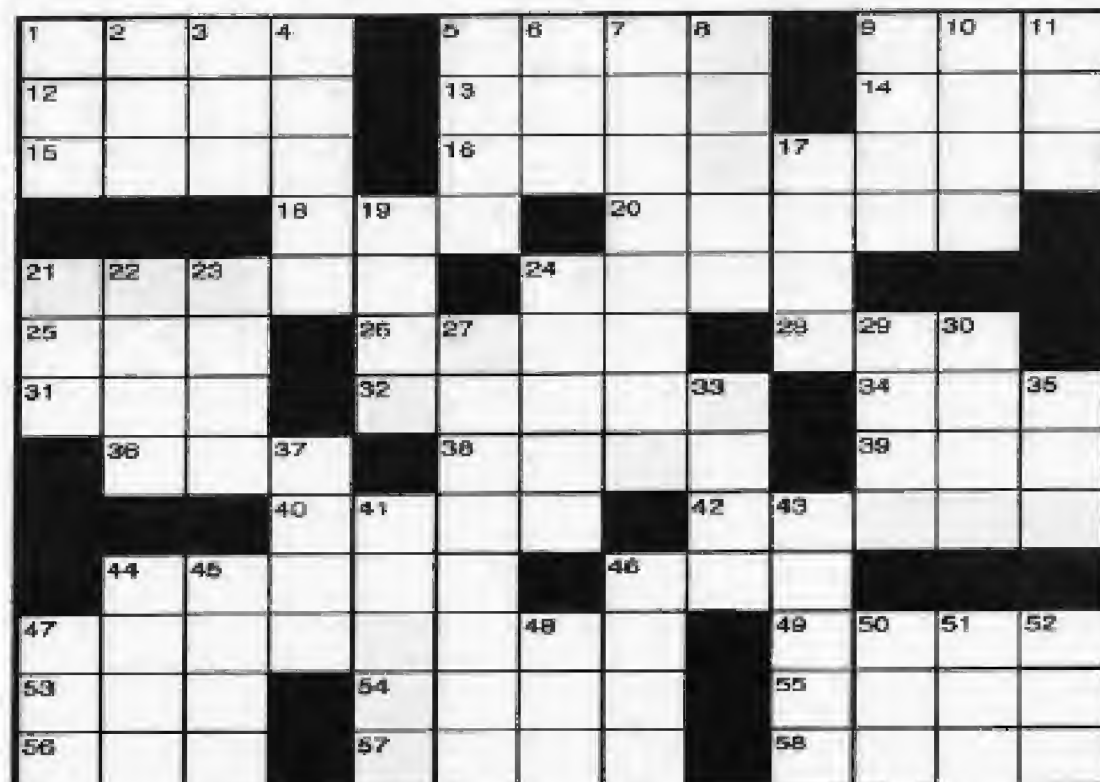
20. Bites
21. Singer Bailey
24. Football action
25. Tide rival
26. Prophetic sign
28. Train terminal (abbr.)
31. Gambling cube
32. Dance club, for short
34. Mined find
36. Sound from Miss Muffet, perhaps
38. Proofreading instruction
39. Middle (abbr.)
40. "\_\_\_ Lonesome I Could Cry" (2 wds.)
42. Not a giver

44. Snow abode
46. Long, long time
47. Ultimate
49. Rowlands of film
53. Actor Mineo
54. Clip neatly
55. Tolstoy et al.
56. They come after ems
57. Some paints
58. Movie lioness

## DOWN

1. "Golly!"
2. Mrs. Eddie Cantor
3. Wrongful act
4. Aromatic chest wood
5. Jekyll, by night

6. Denmark's continent (abbr.)
7. Splendor
8. Slopes
9. Distort
10. Televises
11. Service station offering
17. Conn. neighbor
19. Lump of clay
21. Scratch \_\_\_
22. Author Wiesel
23. Sheltered, asea
24. Sauce for pasta
27. "The \_\_\_ Waltz"
29. Clock sound
30. Comic Johnson
33. Film's Preminger
35. Make a mistake
37. Pottery tool
41. Byword
43. Geometry term
44. Lend of tennis
45. Congeals
46. Shade trees
47. Compass pt.
48. Have a cold
50. Conger
51. Numerals (abbr.)
52. Big \_\_\_ whale (2 wds.)



# BOTICA

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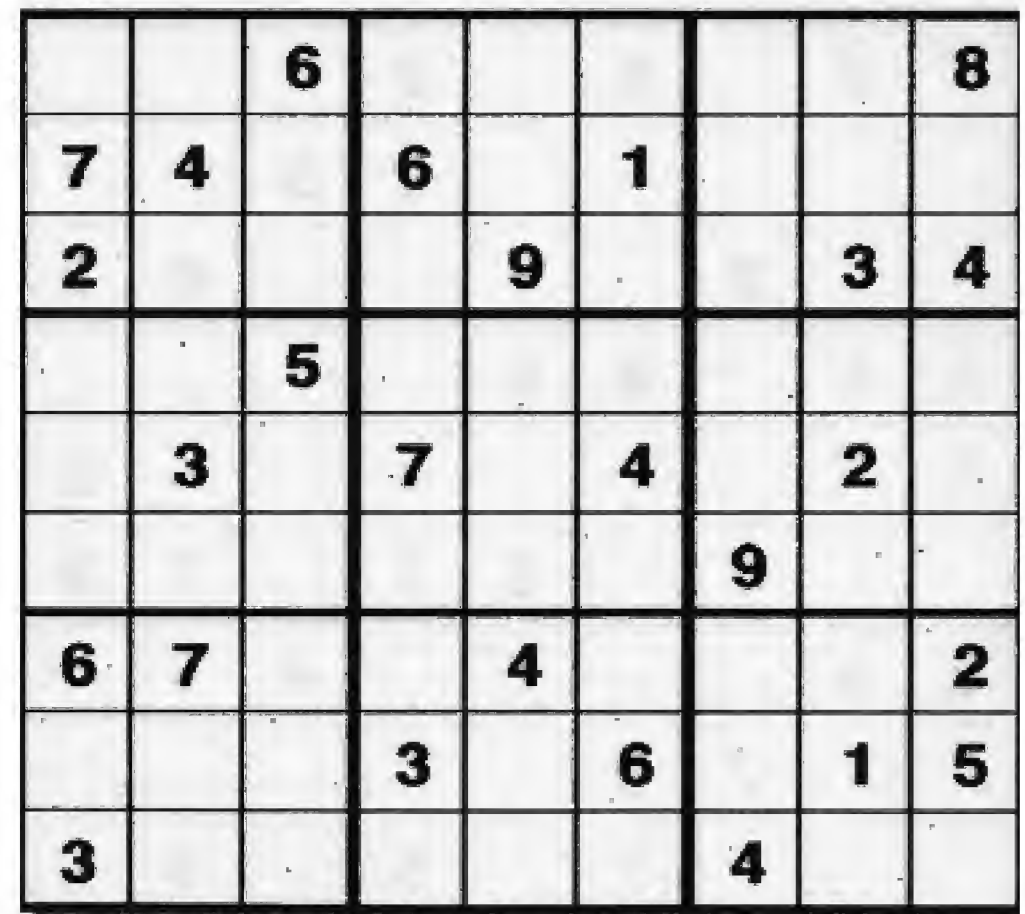
Important  
Telephone  
Numbers

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Horacio Oduber Hospital  
Tel. 5274000  
EMERGENCY  
Telephone 911  
POLICE HDQS  
Telephone 100

TAXI  
C.V. TAS  
587-1988, 587-5900  
In Oranjestad:  
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604  
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	9	7	6	2	1	2	5	8
5	1	2	9	2	5	7	8	6
2	6	6	5	7	8	1	2	9
6	7	8	9	2	2	2	9	1
1	2	5	7	9	2	8	8	8
2	9	8	6	1	6	9	2	7
7	6	8	2	6	5	8	1	2
5	5	2	1	8	9	6	7	2
8	2	1	2	6	7	9	6	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Finance

### PM: Dutch ABN Amro told to ready itself for public sale

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch government yesterday told nationalised lender ABN Amro to get itself ready to be sold off within one year, despite doubts it could be sold at a profit.

"We have asked ABN Amro to prepare itself for a return to the market," Rutte told journalists at his first weekly press briefing since the holiday recess. "ABN Amro probably needs about a year to prepare itself for a listing (on the stock exchange), to make sure it's ready," he added.

The Dutch government bought the country's third largest bank in October 2008 during the height of the banking crisis in a bailout worth 16.8 billion euros (\$22.4 billion). It has since pumped more cash into the limping giant, pushing the total amount of state aid above 30 million euros, according to Dutch media.

The government puts the figure at 21.7 billion euros.

Rutte yesterday stressed however no concrete decision had been made about whether

to sell ABN Amro through an initial public offering (IPO).

He said the government would review the issue once the bank was prepared.

Asked whether he thought the Dutch government would get its money back, Rutte said: "We want the best possible price for ABN Amro, but it is indeed a fact that the chances of making a profit from the sale are slim."

Eurogroup chief and Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem said that "we must realise that we won't get back the entire amount we invested in 2008." He said ABN Amro was currently valued at 15 billion euros.

ABN Amro is the Netherlands' third-largest bank behind ING and Rabobank and traces its roots back to the 19th century.

It was listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange before being bought in 2007 by a consortium consisting of Spanish Santander, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Belgian-Dutch Fortis.

### Fitch Revises Aruba's Outlook...

Continued from page 1'

Downside risks to growth remain depending on the tourism sector performance and the execution of large public-private partnerships to transform the infrastructure network and energy matrix of the island.

In light of difficult economic conditions, the government implemented measures to contain rising spending pressures coming from the pensions and healthcare systems. Nevertheless, the fiscal deficit widened to 8.5% of GDP in 2012 from 7.9% in 2011. Persistent and material deviations from the official growth and deficit reduction targets have weakened fiscal policy predictability and led to deteriorating debt dynamics.

The government aims to balance the budget by 2016 through revenue-enhancing measures, current expenditure restraint and entitlement reforms. However, the magnitude of the present fiscal gap, continued spending pressures, a moderate economic recovery and possible population's fatigue to further tax increases and entitlement reforms, pose risks to the pace of fiscal consolidation.

General government debt climbed to 55% of GDP and 247% of fiscal revenue in 2012, rapidly diverging from the 40% and 141% respective medians of the 'BBB' category. Fitch's base case assumes the government debt burden to continue increasing in the absence of timely and effective fiscal consolidation.

Continued access to domestic and international capital markets have provided the sovereign with sufficient fiscal financing flexibility. Aruba's contingent support from the Netherlands to borrow externally enhances investor confidence and could reduce rollover and interest rate risks.

Adequate reserve coverage

underpins confidence in the exchange rate peg and the authorities' ability to cope with balance of payments pressures. Foreign direct investment and external borrowing are expected to cover the increase in foreign exchange requirements without exerting strain on international reserves.

Aruba's 'BBB' ratings are supported by its impeccable debt repayment record, high per capita income, strong rule of law, political and social stability. The country also enjoys a high degree of consensus among policymakers and key stakeholders on the main tenets of economic policies, which has been further cemented under the Social Dialogue platform since 2010.

#### RATING SENSITIVITIES

The Negative Outlook reflects the following risks factors that may, individually or collectively, result in a downgrade of the ratings by up to one notch:

--Continued growth underperformance and failure to adopt adequate fiscal measures that improve debt sustainability prospects.

--Emergence of financing constraints.

--Deterioration in the institutional relationship between Aruba and the Netherlands.

Fitch's sensitivity analysis does not anticipate developments with a material likelihood of leading to a rating upgrade in the short-term. However, future developments that may, individually or collectively, lead to a stabilization of the Outlook include:

--Progress towards fiscal deficit reduction including measures to address structural weaknesses of public finances

such as a low revenue base and rising entitlements commitments.

-- A sustained economic recovery with positive effects on employment creation, domestic consumption and fiscal prospects.

#### KEY ASSUMPTIONS

The ratings and Outlooks are sensitive to a number of assumptions:

--The growth and external forecasts assume that refining operations and fuel exports by Valero will remain suspended during 2013 - 2015. However, the company will continue to be a provider of transshipment services during this period.

--Fitch factors in a mild recovery in the U.S. and assumes that there are no additional foreign exchange restrictions in Venezuela that could impair growth in the hospitality industry. These two countries account for 75% of tourist arrivals to Aruba.

--Fitch expects a smooth transition of power and no material departures from the current macroeconomic policy direction irrespective of the outcome in the general elections on Sept. 27, 2013.

-- Fitch assumes that Aruba will continue to benefit from broad support from the Dutch government as it is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

#### FRIDAY'S Crossword Answer

T	B	A		A	N	T		T	E	R	M
H	A	S	H		P	O	E		A	R	E
O	N	E	A		O	W	E		M	I	A
D	A	R	Y	L		T	W	E	E	D	
					P	O	O	C	H	E	S
T	H	R	O	U	G	H		S	T	E	P
L	A	B			Y	E	W		O	I	L
C	L	I	F	F		C	H	I	M	N	E
					L	I	E	R	S	K	I
					L	I	E	O	N	S	C
T	O	D	D		I	M	P		N	O	P
A	B	E	E		F	O	E		T	R	E
N	E	A	R		F	O	R		E	W	E



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 08/23/2013	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.09	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.66	1.68	1.70
Britain	GBP	2.70	2.75	2.81
Switzerland	CHF	192.32	193.04	193.84
Netherlands	EUR	235.71	237.86	240.25
Sweden	SEK	26.31	27.03	27.83
Denmark	DKK	30.93	31.65	32.45
Norway	NOK	28.41	29.13	29.93
Japan	JPY	178.09	179.72	181.53

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## Kozlov Dance Academy Welcomed It's First Ballerinas this week!



Childhood friends Roofies Leysner and Veronique Samson were so excited to dance together again, here pictured with Adriana Kozlov



Students following instructor, Adriana Kozlov



The joy of leaping!



Students learning exercises at the ballet barre

-- In celebration of it's Grand Opening, Kozlov Dance Academy welcomed over 80 dancers ranging in age from 4 to adult for a week a free classes. Enthusiastic students and parents were impressed by the professional studio space and the instruction. After a thirty-five year international dance career and more than twenty years educating students in the United States, the Kozlov's are now offering quality training to children and adults on the island. Having danced with the world famous Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, New York City Ballet, on Broadway, and as guest artists all around the world, the Kozlov's will be training students in the Russian classical ballet tradition and producing quality performances including full-length ballets with their students. Classes begin on Monday, August 26th and are being offered for children ages 4 and older plus adult ballet and ballet workout classes. Those who missed the free trial classes can call or email the academy and arrange for a trial class this week. The academy's newly renovated space is located in the Cricket Building on Vondellaan (#19-D) on the second floor. For a class schedule, fees, inscription and more information visit their website [www.kozlovdance.com](http://www.kozlovdance.com), call 564-2670, or email [kozlovdance@gmail.com](mailto:kozlovdance@gmail.com).

## Masonic French priest walks to Rome for special plea



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - French priest Pascal Vesin poses at St Peter's square as he arrives after a 39-day pilgrimage, telling AFP he wanted to be reinstated in his parish despite being a Freemason. Father Pascal Vesin, a 43-year-old parish priest in the town of Megeve, was forced to resign from his public duties in May because of his Masonic link. A thickly-bearded Vesin, his face tanned by the summer walking and with a large rucksack on his back, was moved to tears as he told his emotional story. Vesin, who set off from Megeve on July 14, said he had been "wounded by the injustice" and had written to Pope Francis asking for his punishment to be lifted. Vesin's diocese said he could no longer carry out his pastoral duties because he had chosen to be a member of both the Catholic Church and a Masonic order. The Church and the Freemasons have been at odds for centuries but Vesin said the two were compatible. He said he had received wide support for his voyage. In March, the Holy See's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith asked for priest's departure. Three members of the diocese of Annecy then met him but Vesin said he would not quit his membership of the Lodge. Freemasonry of all types -- regular or irregular, legitimate or "diverted" -- has been condemned by many popes. Freemasonry is a fraternal organisation that arose from the loose grouping of medieval masons, or stone workers, in the building industry. Early organisational forms included lodges and craft guilds. Critics have likened it to a secret society as certain aspects are kept private.



## La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

--Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very se-

riously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store, four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.



Unique, quality goods in all departments

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!



Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection

## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

### The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal

clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients

that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Fica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily,

from 11:00 am to 11:00pm, Telf: 5860606 and email: [saus.arubancuisine@live.com](mailto:saus.arubancuisine@live.com), offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!



# Paseo Herencia add two more Aruban athletes to their "Wall of Fame"



Patrick and Gilberto with Paseo executives Candy Rasmijn and Valerie Pietersz Camacho



Patrick unveiling his commemorative plaque with Minister Visser and Mr. Donald Rasmijn

- - Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall GM Valerie Pietersz-Camacho and Marketing Manager Candy Rasmijn were very proud to welcome to dynamic young island athletes and their families to celebrate international victories that have merited the young men a place on the mall's "Wall of Fame."

The Paseo Herencia "Wall of Fame" is filling up with island youth who have accomplished great things on the playing fields and in swimming pools of the global arena. These athletes have trained hard and demonstrated they have the discipline and heart to "go the distance," and bring home the medals that make their countrymen proud.

On Thursday evening, August 22, it was 14 year old ten-

nis player Patrick Sydow and Gilberto Boerleider, who claimed 3 gold medals and the World Championship in his age division in the martial art of Tang Soo Do.

In December of last year, Patrick earned the Sub-Champion Trophy for under 14 year old tennis players during the International Junior Orange Bowl in Coral Gables, Florida. His parents, Frans, who was also highly seeded on the tennis circuit in his youth, and his mother, Pilar were very proud to see his picture unveiled on the Wall of Fame by Aruba's Minister of Health and Sports, Richard Visser and Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn.

Gilberto's unveiling was attended by parents and grandparents as well as a

representative of the local Tae Kwan Do Association. Gilberto's chosen discipline of Tang Soo Do also originates in Korea, incorporating fighting principles from subak and techniques from northern and southern Chinese kung fu, predating the popular tae kwan do. Gilbert took the Black Belt World Championship title in his age division during the meet in Germany in early June of this year.

Minister Visser introduced the two young men to the audience in the Plaza Padu prior to the official unveiling of their tribute photos. He cited how important they are as role models to other young islanders, "as they demonstrate the rewards of determination and tenacity to excel and be the best you can be, at whatever you choose to do. They embody the philosophy we hope to see all Arubans adopt, of maintaining a healthy mind in a healthy body."

"We are very pleased to add our this two determined young athletes to our Wall of Fame," commented Valerie Pietersz-Camacho. "They have accomplished much at very young ages, and we expect more great things from them in the future."



Patrick Sydow with Family



Gilberto Boerleider and proud parents



Gilberto next to his unveiled plaque

**NFL:** Pittsburgh has traded outside linebacker Adrian Robinson to Philly in exchange for running back Felix Jones, the Steelers have announced. It's not clear how the Steelers will use Jones, who has been something of an underachiever in his five years in the NFL after a standout career at Arkansas. In Dallas.

In his career, Jones rushed for 2,728 yards (4.8 average) and 11 touchdowns. He also has 127 receptions for 1,062 yards and 3 touchdowns. Robinson, meanwhile, appeared in 12 games last season and didn't register a tackle.





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## Boxing: Unbeaten Mares defends crown against Gonzalez

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Un-defeated Abner Mares defends his World Boxing Council featherweight title today against Jhonny Gonzalez in one of two all-Mexican title bouts at the Home Depot Center stadium.

Other bouts at the home stadium of the Major League Soccer champion Los Angeles Galaxy include unbeaten Leo Santa Cruz, a former bantamweight world champion, facing WBC junior featherweight champion Victor Terrazas.

Former world bantamweight and super bantamweight champion Mares, 26-0 with one draw and 14



Abner Mares celebrates at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on May 4, 2013 in Las Vegas

knockouts, has won six fights in a row -- all for world titles -- since a draw against Colombia's Yonhy Perez in a 2010 world title fight.

Gonzalez, 54-8 with 46 knockouts, tries to regain the crown he lost last September to compatriot Daniel Ponce de Leon, who was beaten by Mares last May.

Mares, at 27, is four years younger than his rival, who vows that retirement is not on his mind, although moving up in weight class is in Gonzalez's sights.

Mares expects to see Gonzalez at his hard-punching peak.

Terrazas, 37-2 with one drawn and 21 knockouts, has lost only once since his pro debut a decade ago and seeks his 12th win in a row after taking his first world crown in April with a 12-round split decision over Mexico's Cristian Mijares.

Santa Cruz, who vacated his bantamweight world title to move up to the junior featherweight ranks, has gone the distance in only two of his past 14 fights.



SPA, Belgium (AFP) - Lotus F1 Team's French driver Romain Grosjean looks at a control screen in the pits during the first practice session at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Spa on Friday ahead of the Belgium Formula One Grand Prix this weekend.

## MLB Standings

### American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	75	54	.581	--
TAMPA	72	53	.576	1.0
BALTIMORE	68	58	.540	5.5
YANKEES	67	59	.532	6.5
TORONTO	57	70	.449	17.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	74	53	.583	--
CLEVELAND	69	58	.543	5.0
KANSAS	64	61	.512	9.0
MINNESOTA	56	70	.444	17.5
CHICAGO	51	74	.408	22.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	74	53	.583	--
OAKLAND	71	55	.563	2.5
SEATTLE	59	67	.468	14.5
LA ANGELES	55	71	.437	18.5
HOUSTON	41	85	.325	32.5

### National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	77	49	.611	--
WASHINGTON	62	64	.492	15.0
NY METS	58	67	.464	18.5
PHILADELPHIA	56	70	.444	21.0
MIAMI	48	78	.381	29.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
PITTSBURGH	74	52	.587	--
ST. LOUIS	73	53	.579	1.0
CINCINNATI	73	55	.570	2.0
MILWAUKEE	55	72	.433	19.5
CHICAGO	54	72	.429	20.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
DODGERS	75	52	.591	--
ARIZONA	65	61	.516	9.5
COLORADO	59	69	.461	16.5
SAN DIEGO	57	70	.449	18.0
SAN FRANCISCO	56	70	.444	18.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

## Football: Dortmund down Bremen to stay top of Bundesliga

BERLIN (AFP) - Last season's Champions League finalists Borussia Dortmund strengthened their position as early Bundesliga leaders with a 1-0 win at home to Werder Bremen on Friday.

Dortmund earned their third straight league win at the start of this season as Poland striker Robert Lewandowski showed why Borussia recently raised his wages from a reported 20,000 to 60,000 euros (US\$80,286) per week for the last 10 months of his contract with the winning goal.

Lewandowski celebrated his 101st Bundesliga appearance when he converted Marco Reus's cross in the 55th minute to claim the three points.

With reigning European champions Bayern Munich, who are joint second with Bayer Leverkusen, hosting Nuremberg on Saturday, Dortmund's win at the Westfalenstadion leaves them

three points clear with a goal difference of six compared to Bayern and Leverkusen's three.

This was Bremen's first league defeat of the season, and their first under new coach Robin Dutt, after they saw off newly-promoted Eintracht Braunschweig and Augsburg on the first two weekends.

The result was rarely really in doubt as Dortmund dominated from start to finish with the hosts spraying the visitors' goal with 32 shots -- 16 on target -- compared to Bremen's seven, only four of which troubled Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller.

Dortmund enjoyed around 60 percent possession for the majority of the 90 minutes, while Germany star Reus was a constant thorn in the Bremen defence from the left wing and Lewandowski could have finished with a hat-trick.

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## Tennis: Djokovic serves up speech at UN



NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic took a break from his US Open preparations on Friday to address the United Nations, where he encouraged youngsters to follow his path to global stardom.

The 26-year-old Serb told the UN General Assembly, where an International Day of Sport for Development and Peace was declared for April 6, that he was inspired to play tennis by watching American great Pete Sampras.

"I dreamt of being just like him, the number one tennis player in the world," said Djokovic. "It took me 13 years to achieve my goal. I hope this international day will motivate each of us to invest in every way additional efforts in cultivating the intrinsic sporting values such as fairplay, teamwork and respect for the opponent."

"Sport can help direct general attention to the most at risk and vulnerable in our community, especially disadvantaged children. When we encourage kids to dream big and work hard, we can make a tangible difference in their lives."

Djokovic later returned to the US Open venue of Flushing Meadows where the last Grand Slam tournament of the season gets underway on Monday and where he was champion in 2011.

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## MLB: Brewers' drug cheat Braun admits PED use

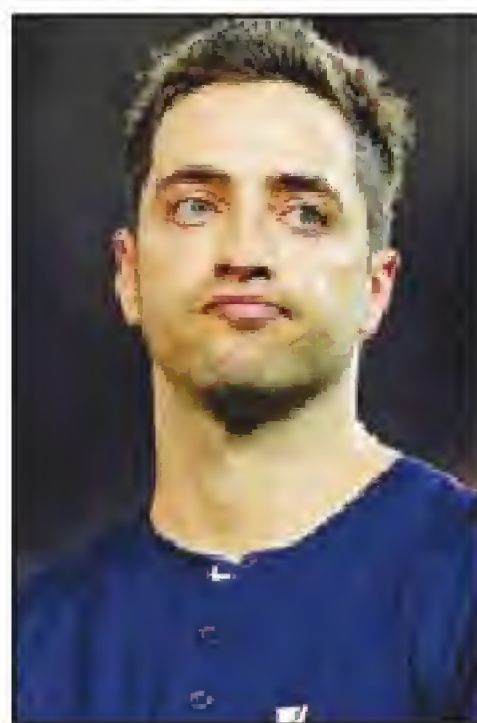
MILWAUKEE (AFP) - Disgraced slugger Ryan Braun admitted Thursday for the first time that he used performance-enhancing drugs during his 2011 Most Valuable Player season, including an illegal cream and a lozenge.

The Milwaukee Brewer player, who was suspended in late July for the remainder of the season after Major League Baseball's probe of the Biogenesis clinic in Florida, apologized but said he justified the use to himself at the time because he was trying to heal from an injury.

"The products were a cream and a lozenge which I was told could help expedite my rehabilitation. It was a huge mistake for which I am deeply ashamed and I compounded the situation by not admitting my mistakes immediately," Braun said in a rambling 944-word statement released by the Major League Baseball team.

Braun was previously hit with a 50-game suspension in late 2011 but he was able to get it overturned in February 2012.

He tested positive for ele-



vated testosterone levels, but won the appeal on a technicality when he challenged how the test samples were stored.

At the time Braun vehemently denied using performance-enhancing drugs and he also used his notoriety to launch a public attack on the lab worker who handled the sample.

Braun also apologized to the collector of his sample, Dino Laurenzi on Thursday.

"I deeply regret many of the things I said at the press conference after the arbitrator's decision in February 2012," he

said. "At that time, I still didn't want to believe that I had used a banned substance."

Braun did not say what type of performance-enhancing drugs he admits to using, just calling it a "cream".

Braun's apology did not go over well with a lot of athletes, including former Oakland Athletic pitcher Mark Mulder who called it orchestrated and lacking in even the basic details.

Others said the apology was a long time coming and even then it fell well short of sounding sincere.